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# STUDIES

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## OCCUPATIONAL MORTALITY AMONG NORTH CAROLINA MALES 1984-1986: A DEATH RATE ANALYSIS

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by

Kathryn B. Surles  
Paul W. C. Johnson  
Paul A. Buescher  
Kenneth P. Kaufman

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### ABSTRACT

Following extensive investigation of the various methods of analysis, age-specific and age-adjusted death rates and rate ratios were produced for the most detailed categories of occupation, industry, and cause of death considered feasible for the size of the database. Results reveal patterns of high mortality risk among male workers in lower status jobs as well as proprietors and supervisors in sales. High risk was observed among workers in such industries as primary iron and steel, automotive and repair services, logging, construction, eating and drinking places, and trucking. In general, low risk was observed among executives, administrators, managers, and professionals and in such industries as textile mill products except yarn/thread/fabric, wholesale trade, colleges and universities, general merchandise stores, and health services except hospitals, among others.

This study's findings are, in general, like those of other studies in terms of a clear socio-economic mortality gradient. For most occupation and industry groups, the results are quite similar to those of a recent California study which, like North Carolina, identified a pattern of high risk among proprietors and supervisors in sales as well as workers in lower status jobs.

The study concludes with a list of seven recommendations for actions that would enhance the study of occupational mortality in North Carolina.